

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DHA-02 ORM-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE ASHDC PRIORITY 9011

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4661

E.O. 1165 GDS

TAGS: EAID UNRWA JO US

SUBJECT: TQ FINANCING FOR JORDAN: MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE

REF: (A) STAE 222575, (B) AMMAN 4641 (C) STATE 211672

1. AS ANTICIPATED IN REF B REASON CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ANTED TO SEE ME SEPTEMBER 7 WAS TO RE-AFFIRM GOJ OPPOSITION TO DRAWING ANY UNRWA FUNDS FROM USA ID PROGRAM TO JORDAN.

2. CROWN PRINCE MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS RELATED IN REFTEL B. HE SAID THAT AS "MATTER OF PRINCIPLE" GOJ BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TO FUND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OUT OF FUNDS ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED FOR BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS.

3. FURTHERMORE CROWN PRINCE SAID GOJ HAS A SERIOUS BUDGET PROBLEM IN FUNDING CURRENT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EXPENSES AND IS IN NEED OF US ASSISTANCE. CROWN PRINCE SAID THAT JORDAN IS ALREADY HOST TO 500,000 PALESTINIANS REFUGEEES FROM 1948 WAR AND THAT IT RATHER THAN UNRWA PICKS UP THE FULL RELIEF COSTS FOR THE 300,000 PALESTINIANS REFUGEES IN JORDAN FROM 1967 WAR. (COMMENT THIS IS AN ACCURATE STATEMENT) AVID EAST BANKER THAT HE IS CP SAID HE FEARS "REVERSE DISCRIMINATION" IS BEING THREATENED HERE (MEANING THAT JORDAN'S EAST BANK POPULATION WOULD BE PLACED IN POSITION OF DEPRIVING ITSELF OF BADLY NEEDED FUNDS IN ORDER TO DEFRAID INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS FOR UNRWA REFUGEES).)

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4. IN REPLY I INFORMED CROWN PRINCE THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY
RELAYED TO UG HIS AND PRIME MINISTER BADRANS VIEWS OPPOSING
JORDANIAN FUNDING FOR UNRWA. I SAID I WAS AUTHORIZED (PER PARA 1
EFTEL A) TO ADVISE HIM THAT FUNDS FOR US PLEDGE OF \$6 M TO UNRWA
BEING MADE THIS MORNING AT ADCOM MEETING IN AMAN WERE NOT
BEING TAKEN FROM JORDAN PROGRAM. CP SIGNED IN RELIEF AND
SAID THIS NEWS HED SET NICE TONE FOR HIS MORNING. I ADDED THAT FINDING
ADEQUATE CONGRESSIO FINANCING TO UNRWA CONTINUES HOWEVER TO BE
A DIFFICULT UNRESOLVED PROBLEM.

5. ON TW ASSISTANCE ISSUE, I MENTIONED THAT DUE TO 15 DAY CONGRESSIONAL
NOTIFICATION PERIOD AND PENDING FINAL WRAP UP OF AID SPRINKER PROJECT
GOJ CAN PROBABLY EXPECT PAYMENT TOWARDS END OF SEPTEMBER.

6. COMMENT: CROWN PRINCE WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT NO FUNDS WOULD
BE TAKEN FROM JORDAN PROGRAM FOR \$6 MILLION SEPT 7 US UNRWA
PLEDGE PARTICULARLY SINCE GOJ STRONGLY OPPOSES THIS GENERAL
PRINCIPLE AND EXPECTS CONSULTATION. REFTEL A HOWEVER WAS NOT
EXPLICIT ENOUGH ON QUESTION OF WHETHER DEFINITE USG DECISION
HAS BEEN REACHED NOT TO PRESS JORDAN TQ PROGRAM FOR UNRWA
FUNDS. I THEREFORE REQUEST
CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT SINCE WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD
IN FINALIZING TQ PROGRAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE
SEPT 15. DEADLINE. PLEASE ADVISE.
SUDDARTH

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